

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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36. (Twice amended) A combination of a joining element and a part, said part defining a bore, said bore having a closed inner end, an open outer end, and a cylindrical inner surface, said inner surface having a first cylindrical portion adjacent to said closed inner end, and a second cylindrical portion disposed between said first cylindrical portion and said open outer end, said second cylindrical portion having a diameter larger than said first cylindrical portion, and

said joining element comprising a body member disposed in said bore, said body member having a first and second portion, said first body portion having a diameter about equal to said first cylindrical portion, and a second body portion having a diameter about equal to said second cylindrical portion, said first body portion having an end defining a first anchor point and comprising a first thermoplastic material adjacent to said first anchor point, and said second body portion defining a second anchor point adjacent to said first body portion, and comprising a second thermoplastic material adjacent to said second anchor point,

said body member having responded to an application of pressure and of energy so as to have formed respective macroscopic cavities in said part at said first and second anchor points,

said thermoplastic materials at said first and second anchor points having been plasticized by said application of energy and pressure so as to have flowed into said respective macroscopic anchor cavities in said part.

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37. (Twice amended) A combination of a joining element and a part, said part defining a bore having a closed inner end and an open outer end, and said joining element comprising an elongated body member disposed in said bore, said body member having a thermoplastic material at a first anchor point at a tip adjacent to said closed inner end, and

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a head portion on said body member, said head portion being disposed at said open outer end,

said thermoplastic material at said first anchor point having been responsive to an application of pressure to said head portion and energy to said anchor point so as to have formed a macroscopic anchor cavity in said part at said closed inner end, and said thermoplastic material having been plasticized by said application of pressure and energy so as to have flowed into said macroscopic cavity, and thereby to have formed a macroscopic anchor connection to secure said joining element to said part.

38. (Twice amended) The combination according to claim 37 wherein said joining element body is formed as an elongated pin and includes a second anchor point of thermoplastic material spaced from said first anchor point.

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39. (Amended) The combination according to claim 38 wherein said joining element includes an internally threaded opening for receiving an attachment.

40. (Amended) The combination according to claim 38 wherein said joining element consists entirely of thermoplastic material.

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41. (Twice amended) The combination according to claim 40 wherein said thermoplastic material at said anchoring points is plasticizable at a lower temperature at said anchor points than at other portions of said joining element.

42. (Amended) The combination according to claim 38 wherein said joining element comprises thermosetting material and having said thermoplastic material at said preselected anchoring points.

43. (Amended) The combination according to claim 38 wherein said thermoplastic material at said anchoring points includes metal particles incorporated in said thermoplastic material.

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44. (Twice amended) The combination according to claim 38 wherein said tip of said joining element is shaped with a point.

45. (Twice amended) The combination according to claim 38 wherein said tip of said joining element is flat or concave.

46. (Amended) The combination according to claim 37 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polycarbonate, polyester carbonate, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, styrene-acrylonitrile, polymethylmethacrylate, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene.

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51. (Amended) A joining element according to claim 50 and including an internally threaded opening in said body for receiving a fitting.

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52. (Amended) A joining element according to claim 49 wherein said thermoplastic material at said anchoring points is plasticizable at a lower temperature at said anchoring point than at other portions of said joining element.